Demand to close down Pak High Commission

1994. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demands have been made to shut down Pak High Commission in New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the staff posted at Pak High Commission is linked with ISI agents and spreading terror in India;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to close down the Pak High Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Following the 13th December terrorist attack on Parliament by two Pakistan-based terrorist groups, Government announced a series of diplomatic steps against Pakistan including a reduction by 50% in the respective strengths of the High Commissions in the two countries. This step was announced on 27th December, 2001.

Several instances of officials in the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi indulging in activities incompatible with their official status, including smuggling and espionage, have come to light.

Committee for cases of harassment of women employees

1995. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a complaint Committee to deal with the cases of harassment of women employees in the Indian Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of the complaints received since the constitution of the Committee;

(d) the number of complaints that have been inquired into by the Committee and were substantiated; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government against the officials found involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry has constituted a "Complaints Committee" to deal with the cases of harassment of women employees in the Ministry and in Indian Missions and Posts abroad. This was done in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's decision in the case of Vishaka *Vs* State of Rajasthan. The Committee is responsible for conducting independent investigations into allegations of sexual harassment received from women employees.

(c) The Committee has not received any complaints since its constitution.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Support sought by USA

1996. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and kind of support sought by the United States of America in its own efforts to fight terrorism;

(b) Government's response alongwith the details of the aid and assistance provided; and

(c) whether Government have accepted military alliance with the USA in support of the so called global coalition to fight international terrorism which according to USA stand so far does not include cross border terrorism and the proxy war engaged by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country for more than a decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) As part of the commitment to fight international terrorism and in the context of India's ongoing counter terrorism cooperation with the United States, India extended assistance after examining the specific requests made by the U.S. Government after the terrorist attacks of